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OBITUARIES**Robert Henry Lamborn**

In the *AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST* for April, 1893 (volume vi, page 223), the following announcement appeared: "A member of the Anthropological Society of Washington has placed in the hands of the Treasurer of the Society a sum of money, to be awarded in prizes for the clearest statements of the elements that go to make up the most useful citizen, regardless of occupation." Later numbers of the journal contained announcements of the selection of a distinguished Board of Commissioners of Award, and of the awarding of prizes to two out of the forty-two essays received under the terms of the competition from seventeen states of the Union and five foreign countries. The name of the founder of the prizes was not given in any of these notices. It is a melancholy pleasure to announce that the founder was the late Dr. Robert H. Lamborn, of New York.

Robert H. Lamborn was born in 1836, near Kennett Square, Chester county, Pennsylvania. After acquiring a liberal education in this country he matriculated at the University of Geissen, in Germany, where he made special studies in mining and metallurgy and obtained the degree of Ph. D.; afterward he took a course in the *École des Mines*, Paris. Returning to this country in the early sixties, he engaged in railway business in Pennsylvania, and subsequently became interested in the construction of railways in southwestern states, and was an active promoter and large owner of the Mexican Central Railway. Through these enterprises he amassed a fortune, and later, on retiring from active business about 1887, devoted himself to scientific and literary studies.

For many years he was secretary of the American Iron and Steel Association, and his earlier publications were chiefly technologic; among them are "A Rudimentary Treatise on the Metallurgy of Copper," London, 1860, and "A Rudimentary Treatise

on the Metallurgy of Silver and Lead," London, 1861. Numerous editions of the latter work have appeared. His later years were occupied in travel and in study of a wide range of subjects; he was an indefatigable collector and generous distributor of material pertaining to the fine arts, history, ethnology, biology, geology, and mineralogy, and his donations have enriched the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the American Museum of Natural History in New York, the Museum of Archeology in the University of Pennsylvania, and other institutions, including the United States National Museum in Washington. His private library, numbering several thousand volumes, and certain special collections were deposited in the University of Pennsylvania. Through personal encouragement of investigation and through the establishment of funds, he did much to promote research concerning scientific subjects. He was connected with numerous learned societies. His later studies were devoted largely to art; his last important publication was a work on "Mexican Painting and Painters," New York, 1891.

Dr. Lamborn's business associations in earlier years and extensive journeyings in later years brought him in contact with all classes of men, and he became a keen student of men and institutions; and his opportunities, coupled with a kindly disposition, served to render him a philanthropist whose energy and means were devoted in large yet provident measure to the welfare of mankind. The anonymous founding of the Citizenship prizes of the Anthropological Society was but a characteristic incident of his career. Many such incidents might be noted, though there is reason to opine that most of his philanthropic acts were so modestly performed as to leave no record save in the minds of the widely dispersed beneficiaries. Industrious, energetic, and sagacious, Dr. Lamborn was a successful business man; amiable, upright, and generous, he was a useful member of society; in all ways he was a noteworthy contributor to the material and intellectual progress of the world. By constant activity throughout his adult life he contributed more to than he absorbed from his country, and was thus in himself a model of citizenship, and in his death the progressive nineteenth-century world lost one of its makers.

Dr. Lamborn died unmarried January 14, 1895; a brother and sister survive him.

W J MCGEE.